

Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1-10 (Cancelled).

11. (New) A fuel rail assembly comprising:

an elongated conduit having a longitudinal fuel passage therein, and having a plurality of holes;

a fuel inlet pipe fixed to said conduit;

an inner collar and an outer collar at each of said holes, each of said inner collar and said outer collar at each of said holes being integral with a wall of said conduit so as to have a one-piece construction with said wall of said conduit such that said inner collar and said outer collar at each of said holes are formed simultaneously with each respective hole by drilling; and

a plurality of branch pipes fixed to said conduit so as to communicate with said conduit, each of said branch pipes having a basal end inserted into a respective one of said holes, and having a distal end opposite said basal end, said distal end having a connecting member to be connected to a respective fuel injector.

12. (New) The fuel rail assembly of claim 11, wherein said conduit has a circular cross-section, and at least a peripheral area around said outer collar at each of said holes has a flat planar shape.

13. (New) The fuel rail assembly of claim 11, wherein a tip of said basal end of each of said branch pipes extends into a respective hole of said conduit at least as far as an inner surface of said inner collar at said respective hole.

14. (New) The fuel rail assembly of claim 11, wherein each of said branch pipes extends vertically from said conduit.

15. (New) The fuel rail assembly of claim 11, wherein said basal end of each of said branch pipes is welded or brazed to said conduit.

16. (New) The fuel rail assembly of claim 11, wherein said connecting member of each of said branch pipes comprises a flange.

17. (New) The fuel rail assembly of claim 11, wherein said connecting member of each of said branch pipes comprises a socket fitting including a socket nut and a tapered pipe end.

18. (New) The fuel rail assembly of claim 11, wherein said conduit has a rectangular cross-section.

19. (New) The fuel rail assembly of claim 11, wherein each of said holes is shaped by being formed with a flow drill.

20. (New) A fuel rail conduit comprising:
a wall shaped to form a longitudinal fuel passage, said wall having a plurality of holes formed therein;

an inner collar and an outer collar at each of said holes, each of said inner collar and said outer collar at each of said holes being integral with said wall of said conduit so as to have a one-piece construction with said wall such that said inner collar and said outer collar at each of said holes are formed simultaneously with each respective hole by drilling; and

a plurality of branch pipes fixed to said wall at said holes by inserting a basal end of each of said branch pipes into a respective one of said holes.

21. (New) The fuel rail conduit of claim 20, wherein said wall has a circular cross-sectional shape, and at least a peripheral area around said outer collar at each of said holes has a flat planar shape.

22. (New) The fuel rail conduit of claim 20, wherein a tip of said basal end of each of said branch pipes extends into a respective hole of said wall at least as far as an inner surface of said inner collar at said respective hole.

23. (New) The fuel rail conduit of claim 20, wherein each of said branch pipes extends vertically from said wall.

24. (New) The fuel rail conduit of claim 20, wherein said basal end of each of said branch pipes is welded or brazed to said wall.

25. (New) The fuel rail conduit of claim 20, wherein said wall has a rectangular cross-sectional shape.

26. (New) The fuel rail conduit of claim 20, wherein each of said holes is shaped by being formed with a flow drill.